

CLAIMS:

1. A tension indicator in combination with a strap whose tension is to be indicated, the combination comprising:

- the strap and
- 5      • a tension indicator, the tension indicator comprising:
  - a resilient member attached at its ends to two points along the length of the strap, the points of attachment being further apart in the longitudinal direction of the strap than the free, non-tensioned, length of the resilient member between its ends, whereby when the strap is slack the resilient member draws a bight in it between the attachment points and
  - means for visually indicating elongation of the resilient member when the strap and the resilient member are stretched in tension, whereby absence of slack in the strap can be noted.

2. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attached ends of the resilient member are its terminal ends.

15      3. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attached ends of the resilient member are effective ends spaced from terminal ends by vestigial pieces.

4. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 20      3, wherein the attached ends are attached directly to the strap.

5. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the attached ends are attached to the strap via intermediate members.

6. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the intermediate members form part of the visual indicating means.

25      7. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein one of the resilient member and the visual indicating means is an inner member at least partially within the other as an outer member.

8. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

- the resilient member is an inner member and
- 30      • the indicating means is:
  - an outer member attached at its ends to the ends of the resilient member and encasing the resilient inner member, the outer member being provided with

- at least one opening arranged to open on stretching of the outer member to expose the inner resilient member to view

the arrangement being such that with both members having their ends attached to each other and the strap, both the outer and the inner members stretch in use.

5 9. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

- the resilient member is a length of resilient material attached at two points along the length of the strap, the points of attachment being further apart in the longitudinal direction of the strap than the free, non-tensioned, length of the resilient material; and
- the visual indicating means is a sleeve attached to the strap with the resilient material being accommodated within the sleeve, the sleeve being of a length to cover the resilient material when it is not tensioned;

the arrangement being such that on tensioning of the strap, the resilient material is drawn from the sleeve and being exposed to view indicates that the strap is tensioned.

10 15. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 9 as appendant to claim 4, wherein the sleeve is attached to the strap remote from the end of the resilient material.

11. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 9 as appendant to claim 4, wherein the resilient material is attached to the strap via the sleeve.

20 12. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 9, claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the sleeve is provided at one end of the resilient material, exposing resilient material at the other end on stretching.

13. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 9, claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the sleeve is provided at one both ends of the resilient material, exposing resilient material in the middle on stretching.

25 14. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the resilient material is self-coloured

15. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the resilient material is provided with gradations of colour or a marker, to indicate the degree of tension in the strap according to the extent of exposure.

30 16. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

- the resilient member is an outer member having a central void and
- the indicating means includes:

- at least one opening in the resilient outer member and arranged to open on stretching of the outer member and
- an inner member provided in the void inside the resilient outer member, the inner member being visible through the or each opening when the outer member is in its stretched state.

5 17. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inner member is an extensible member having its ends attached to the strap, preferably at the ends of the outer member.

18. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 16, wherein the

10 inner member is an inextensible member attached to the strap, preferably at one of its ends to one of the ends of the outer member.

19. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inner member is captivated within the outer member by the outer member alone.

20. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in any one of claims 16 to  
15 19, wherein the resilient member is a coil spring, attached to the strap by end eyes, and the indicating member is a peg or rod within the spring.

21. A tension indicator and strap combination as claimed in claim 19, wherein the coil spring is of the type which is coil bound when under no tension, thereby obscuring the indicating member until tensioned sufficiently to open the coils of the spring.